BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2002FOR0001-000001
June 12, 2002

Ministry of Forests
Chief Forester's Office

NASS ALLOWABLE ANNUAL CUT REDUCED

VICTORIA – The allowable annual cut for the Nass timber supply area will be reduced, British Columbia chief forester Larry Pedersen announced today. Effective Aug. 1, the allowable annual cut will be 865,000 cubic metres, a decrease of 277,400 cubic metres.

"The reduction in the allowable annual cut is necessary to ensure long-term sustainability," Pedersen said.

The new harvest level includes 200,000 cubic metres per year from the Upper Nass area. No harvesting has taken place in the Upper Nass, which is largely undeveloped.

"I've continued to include the Upper Nass in the timber supply to provide licensees an opportunity to develop it," Pedersen said. "However, I've also specified a harvest level for the Upper Nass to prevent overharvesting in the Lower Nass."

The last timber supply review for the Nass timber supply area was completed in 1996, when the allowable annual cut was set at 1.15 million cubic metres. In 2000, the chief forester reduced the allowable annual cut to 1.1424 million cubic metres to reflect land transferred under the Nisga'a Treaty.

The actual average harvest level in the Nass timber supply area from 1997 to 2000 was 553,000 cubic metres per year, well below the new allowable annual cut.

The Nass timber supply area covers about 1.6 million hectares in northwestern British Columbia. It is remote and sparsely populated. Communities within and near the area include Stewart, Meziadin, Elsworth camp, Nass camp, Van Dyke camp, Gitlakdamix, Gitwinksihlkw, Lakalzap, Kitwanga, Gitwangak and Gitanyow.

The chief forester's determination is an independent professional judgment based on information ranging from technical forestry reports and public input to the government's economic and social goals. The decision takes into account environmental factors like wildlife habitat; lake, stream and wetland areas; old-growth forest and scenic areas.

The Nass decision is the 29th of 37 allowable annual cut determinations for timber supply areas in the second provincewide timber supply review. The timber supply review is a detailed and comprehensive process that ensures harvest rates sustain ecological values such as biodiversity and wildlife, as well as timber, jobs and economic benefits.

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A copy of the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination for the Nass timber supply area and the summary of public input on the Nass timber supply review are available on the Ministry of Forests Web site at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb/tsr2/tsa/tsa25/tsa25.htm and at the following Forest Service offices:

- Kalum forest district, 250-638-5100
- Prince Rupert forest region, 250-847-7500
- Stewart field office, 580-636-2336

For more information on the timber supply review, visit http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb on the Internet.

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Visit the province's Web site at http://www.gov.bc.ca/ for online information and services.

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